Method for immunoassay and apparatus therefor.

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Abstract of **EP0488152**

A method for immunoassay of a trace vital component is provided. Using fine particles as label or marker 21, the fine particles are captured on reaction solid phase 10 in proportion to an amount of analyte by a specific reaction such as antigen-antibody reaction. Then, the fine particles are liberated and the number of fine particles is counted to determine the amount of analyte. The solution to be assayed containing the liberated matters is introduced into flow cell 1 and pulse-like fluorescence emitted when the fine particles pass through a flux of laser light irradiated from the direction crossing the flow at the right angle is detected and the pulse is counted to count the number of fine particles 21. The marker or label, i.e., the fine particles once captured on the reaction solid phase are liberated and then counted. Therefore, influence of the label non-specifically bound to the solid phase can be eliminated. By using the fine particles as the label and counting the number of the particles, detection having a high linearity can be realized even at a low concentration.

FIG. 4